



**NITRO-Oceania**

## **Agenda**

### **Online Business Meetings**

**October 4 and 6, 2022**

10am-12pm Western Australia  
12-2 pm Papua New Guinea and Queensland  
1-3 pm NSW, ACT, Victoria and Tasmania  
2-4 pm Fiji  
3-5 pm New Zealand and Samoa

Chair: Ken Taylor

1. Welcome and Acknowledgment of country. Apologies.

2. Where are we heading?

Report from strategic planning process (attached p. 2-5)

**For discussion:**

- What has worked well in inter- and transdisciplinarity in your organisation?
- What is not worked well? What are the challenges?
- What are you optimistic about?
- What are you concerned about?
- What should we do next to foster inter- and transdisciplinarity?

3. What have we done?

2021-22 Activity report and financial statement (attached, p. 6-10)

**For ratification**

4. Who is going to lead us into the next phase?

Nominations for Executive and President

There are three vacancies on the NITRO-Oceania Executive (see <https://nitro-oceania.net/members/>, with one position currently vacant and Dr Allanah Ryan and Dr Dan Walker stepping down). In addition, the current President, Professor Gabriele Bammer, is stepping down from the Presidency. Nominations to fill these positions are welcome now or at the meetings (please send nominations to [Gabriele.Bammer@anu.edu.au](mailto:Gabriele.Bammer@anu.edu.au)).

**For action**

5. What else? Any other business

**Attached papers**

1. Strategic planning 2022 discussion paper (p. 4-7)
2. Report of activities for October 2021-September 2022 (p. 8-19)
3. Financial Statement for October 2021-September 2022 (p. 11-12)

# NITRO-Oceania

Representing, promoting and supporting interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research in the Oceania region

## Strategic Planning 2022

Discussion Paper – will be finalised after October business meetings

### Context

NITRO-Oceania Executive has undergone a strategic planning exercise to develop a sound operational plan for the next 5 years. Since establishment in 2019 NITRO-Oceania has grown to comprise has over 70 members from 40 institutions. NITRO-Oceania is moving to a new phase of its development with a new Strategy being developed and a new President expected to be elected in October.

*We are a network of leaders fostering interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research and education within and across organisations.*

*Our mission is inspiring and supporting researchers to achieve transformational impact on global challenges.*

*We endeavour to represent interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity in research policy and funding settings.*

*We acknowledge and strive to incorporate the richness of multiple forms of knowledge and diverse cultural contexts within the Oceania region and beyond*

The planning process focused on the key operational issues necessary to sustain the ongoing functioning of the network into the future. It was led by the NITRO-Oceania Executive.

This provides the membership with the outputs of the planning process thus far and acts as a catalyst for input from the NITRO-Oceania Membership at the Annual Meetings in October 2022.

### What are we asking of Members?

We hope everyone will participate in a dialogue organised around five guiding questions:

1. What has worked well in inter- and transdisciplinarity in your organisation?
2. What is not worked well? What are the challenges?
3. What are you optimistic about?
4. What are you concerned about?
5. What should we do next to foster inter- and transdisciplinarity?

## Objectives

The planning process with the Executive addressed the following objectives

1. To build a more secure financial basis for NITRO-Oceania operations – *how do we get, and maintain, the funding to do what we want to do?*
2. To have dedicated secretariat support for NITRO-Oceania functioning – *there is a currently reliance on a few individuals to do NITRO-Oceania work. How can we provide the operational foundation of a secretariat that ensures core NITRO-Oceania work is ongoing and less reliant on individuals?*
3. To have a clearer (possibly more formal) structure for the Executive – *we currently have a deliberately loose structure. Is it time for more clearly defined, possibly more formal, Executive roles to make it easier for people to fill these jobs?*
4. To make it easier for people to take on roles that achieve network aims - *how do we support working groups and leaders to take on projects/jobs/tasks for the benefit of the network and members? How can we best use the financial support we currently have from donations (currently around \$15K) eg: employing an administrative assistant? Could we make better use of our honorary members category, especially to attract more members who have retired from full-time employment?*

## Approach

The planning process was coordinated and facilitated by an independent consultant, with the support and guidance of an Executive Working Group of Gabriele Bammer, Paul Bertsch, Iain Gordon

A series of meetings held during June – September 2022 addressed key questions and conducted an adapted SWOT analysis. Critical operational issues and decisions were also made during this process.

Notes and records of discussions were maintained on a Google doc accessible to all Executive to enable input and visibility of discussions throughout for all Executive.

The Executive considered and developed this Strategic Planning Paper for presentation to and consideration by NITRO-Oceania members.

## Key Decisions throughout the process (made and pending)

- Co-location and Admin Support with Future Earth Australia
- Executive Roles – 2022-2023
- Executive resignations and changing roles
- ToRs for Admin Support and Executive Officer
- Funding for same
- Seeking EoI (or process?) for new Executive Members

## Looking forward with a clear vision: Building on our strengths and learning lessons as we go

### Responses from the Executive

#### Looking Back - What has Worked Well?

##### For The Executive

- Involvement of Exec has been fantastic - people show up, participate and actively care about the issues
- Networking - knowing who is who (Brisbane workshop and since) - who is interested in the issues
- Seminars a useful addition - had more return on investment
- Website has fantastic material - and up to date
- Level of formality - informality has been clever and effective, been fit for purpose
- GB done a good job of herding very busy people who are committed to the cause but it has needed someone like GB to keep us focused.
- People have been creative about finding ways to support NITRO-Oceania's activities.
- Started as part of an international group, and we are the only geographic network that is actively operating of the original constituents.

##### For Members

- Members turn up to our seminars and annual meetings and have endorsed the ongoing activities.
- Coffee chats to encourage networking worked for a little while
- Learned a lot from group involved in the development of the workshops and was a valuable experience
- Have a good group of Pacifica members
- We have a Value Proposition that is valuable.

#### Looking Back - What has not Worked Well

##### For the Executive

- Hard to get donations from some members, noting that donations are not expected from a number of members eg honorary and global members, Pacific universities.
- Exec members are really busy, so not always able to respond in a timely manner or to undertake tasks they would like to contribute to
- Unable to conduct horizon and activity scanning to find opportunities for NITRO-Oceania to contribute as a peak body for ID and TD to policy and funding debates.

- Also unsuccessful in attempt to influence Australian and New Zealand Standard Research Classification (ANZSRC) review (but this one probably needs persistence).

#### For Members

- workshops - took a lot of work but not the degree of audience participation that we hoped for.
- Some members who don't get it enough to donate (noting that donations are not expected from a number of members eg honorary and global members, Pacific universities)
- Targeting leadership has been challenging.
- Improve our engagement with indigenous and Pasifika

#### Looking Forward - What are you optimistic about?

- That inter/transdisciplinarity is seeing a greater inclusion than it has in the past.
- That NITRO-Oceania has a deep role to play in the region in developing a narrative around future leaders on inter/transdisciplinary organisations
- Funders increasingly 'getting' need to support ID and TD research and looking for expert input - we need to capitalise on this
- The fact that ID was even on the agenda for the Australian and New Zealand Standard Research Classification (ANZSRC) review - this means there is an opportunity to keep pushing on this.

#### Looking Forward - What are you concerned about?

- The continued issue re financial support for NITRO-Oceania
- A diminution of the executive as people come off and potentially others do not come on
- Is focus clear enough?
- Engaging with Maori /other indigenous - what do we have practically to offer their agenda?
- Keeping focused on role of NITRO-Oceania as peak body for ID and TD seeking seat at policy and funding tables

#### Where do we want to go and How?

- To be a valued and trusted organisation in support of inter/transdisciplinarity in the Oceania region.
- Through connecting, inspiring and informing current and future leaders in inter/transdisciplinary organisations in the Oceania region.
- To be to 'go to' organisation when research funding and policy decisions are made to being an ID/TD voice to the table alongside disciplinary and other professional association voices.

#### **What happens next**

We will collate the input from the 2 meetings of members on the 4<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> of October 2022, and add these inputs to those of the Executive. This will help inform a strategy for the future direction of NITRO-Oceania.



## NITRO-Oceania

### Report of activities October 2021-September 2022

#### Report of the 2021 Business Meeting

A report of the 2021 Members' Business meeting is available at <https://nitro-oceania.net/activities/business-meetings/2021-business-meeting/>.

#### Executive Meetings and Strategic Planning

After the 2021 business meeting, Rob Raven and Stuart White joined the Executive, with Tayanah O'Donnell and Rachel Parker stepping down from the Executive.

At the October and November 2021 Executive meetings, the focus was on attracting new members and securing donations for 2022. Six new members joined NITRO-Oceania and two new donations were secured. Thinking also commenced about responding to the need for new administrative arrangements in October 2022.

The focus in 2022 was on strategic planning. Member, Professor Kate Henne, joined the Executive for these meetings.

Executive meetings were held in February, March, April and May to prepare for the strategic planning meetings and to choose a facilitator.

Strategic planning meetings were held in June, July, August and September.

In August medical issues led to the resignation of the facilitator. The strategic planning process was far enough advanced that it could be concluded by members of the Executive.

#### Seminars

##### ***December 2, 2021 online***

Professor Alex Haslam, University of Queensland, Australia

Title: "Effective organisational leadership and what it means for interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research organisations."

There were 48 attendees and the seminar was followed by a lively discussion. A video of the talk and discussion is available at <https://nitro-oceania.net/activities/seminars/>.

### **July 20, 2022 online**

Professor Upolu Luma Vaai, Principal and Professor of Theology & Ethics at the Pacific Theological College in Suva, Fiji

Title: "Pasifika 'Whole of Life' Education: A Decolonial Communities-based Approach."

There were 54 attendees and the seminar was followed by a lively discussion. A video of the talk and discussion is available at <https://nitro-oceania.net/activities/seminars/>.

### **September 1, 2022 online (jointly with Monash Sustainable Development Institute)**

Dr Sabine Hoffmann, Cluster Leader Inter- and Transdisciplinary Research, Eawag – Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology

Title: *Integrating the integrator! A call for establishing academic careers for integration experts*

There were 29 attendees and the seminar was followed by a lively discussion. A video of the talk and discussion is available at <https://nitro-oceania.net/activities/seminars/>.

### **Planned: November 15, 2022 online**

Professor Margaret Palmer, Director, National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC), USA

Title: On leading a large interdisciplinary organisation.

### **Member recruitment and member updates**

Two new members joined in 2022. Updates were sent to members in May, June, July and September about the strategic planning process, seminars and the October business meeting.

### **Website**

The website was kept up-to-date, with notices about activities published twice per month on average.

### **Website Views and Visitors**

	<b>2019 (May-Dec)</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022 (to Sept)</b>
<b>Views</b>	1,466	3,219	3,788	1,529
<b>Visitors</b>	342	833	1,246	683
<b>Country views - Oceania</b>				
- Australia	892	2008	2,308	966
- New Zealand	217	280	443	76
- Fiji	35	52	71	43
- Papua New Guinea	14	25	2	3
- New Caledonia		3	3	
- French Polynesia		5		

- Samoa	5	45	34	1
- Solomon Islands		15		1
- Tonga			4	
- Vanuatu			1	
- Guam				1
<b>Country views – outside Oceania</b>	302	785	943	413



NITRO-Oceania

**Financial Statement**  
**October 2021-September 2022**

**Income**

2021		2022		2023	
<b>Voluntary subscriptions paid</b>		<b>Voluntary subscriptions paid</b>		<b>Voluntary subscriptions paid</b>	
UQ (Global Change Institute)	2K	ANU (ICEDS)	2K	UTS (TD School) (paid 12 mo early)	2K
ANU (RegNet)	2K	ACIAR	2K		
ACIAR	2K	Massey	2K		
Massey	2K	UTS (Institute for Sustainable Futures)	2K		
UTS (Institute for Sustainable Futures)	2K	Centre for Marine Socioecology (Tas)	2K		
		CSIRO	2K		
		Central Queensland University	2K		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10K</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14K</b>		

**Expenses**

2021		2022		2023	
75% of income for admin assistance	7.5K	75% of income for admin assistance	10.5K		
Domain name renewal	24	Domain name renewal	24		
Website renewal	396	Website renewal	240		
		Software payment	26.93		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,920</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,790.93</b>		

Carry-over	2,080	Carry-over	3,209.07		

<b>Total in hand</b>	
Carry-over 2021	2,080
Carry-over 2022	3,209.07
Membership pre-paid for 2022	2,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,289.07</b>

Members of NITRO-Oceania, especially the Executive, also made significant financial, in-kind and pro-bono contributions.